

PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW Plaintiff, Cynthia Saxiones ("Plaintiff" or "Saxiones"), complaining of Defendant John E. Potter, Postmaster General, United States Postal Service ("Defendant"), and for cause of action respectfully shows the Court as follows:

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THE PARTIES

- Plaintiff Saxiones is an individual residing in Richardson, Texas 75081.
 Plaintiff worked in the Richland Station of the United States Postal Service and was detailed to the Farmers Branch Station of the United States Postal Service at the time that her cause of action accrued.
- 2. Defendant John E. Potter is the Postmaster General of the United States

 Postal Service, and the head of the department in which Plaintiff was employed.

II.

JURISDICTION

4. Jurisdiction is conferred on this Court to secure protection of and redress the deprivation of rights secured by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000(e) et seq., and pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1339.

III.

EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

5. Plaintiff has timely met all conditions precedent to the filing of this lawsuit. Plaintiff submitted a Complaint of Discrimination to the United States Postal Service, Dallas Division Office, and appealed to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Office of Federal Operations. Plaintiff received a Notice of Right to Sue after April 14, 2004, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit A hereto. Pursuant to Plaintiff's notice of right to file a civil action, Plaintiff has timely filed this action within ninety (90) days of receipt of her Right to Sue letter.

IV.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 6. Plaintiff has worked for the Post Office for approximately 18 years and had no previous psychiatric history. Plaintiff filed several grievances due to racial discrimination in the workplace (Plaintiff is Caucasian) and has resolved all three.
- 7. Commencing in October 2002, Plaintiff was retaliated against for her prior Equal Employment Opportunity activity when (1) on October 23, 2002, she was given

a letter of warning for failure to follow security guidelines; (2) on November 14, 2002, she was placed off the clock in a non-duty status for falsification; and (3) on January 8, 2003, she received a notice of removal for improper conduct - altering an official document, resulting in Plaintiff's suspension which she is now serving.

- 8. With respect to charge (1) supra, in August 2002, Plaintiff informed management at the Farmers Branch Station and Richland Station that she needed a new badge because her badge had stopped working and would not give her access through any of the doors. Because Plaintiff did not have a new badge, she was denied access to the restroom and break area on the second floor, while Black employees had access to these areas.
- 9. The doors were routinely propped open due to the fact that employees who are reporting for training did not have access badges. It was necessary for Plaintiff to have to prop open her doors so she could get back in after using the restroom. Furthermore, Plaintiff wrote up a Form 1767, Report of Hazard or Safety Condition, reporting that the doors would not close properly.
- 10. On October 4, Plaintiff was placed off the clock for being unsafe to herself and others because the doors were propped open. On October 7 Plaintiff was given a new access badge which worked, but on the same date Plaintiff received predisciplinary procedures for leaving the doors open while the postal police were present, which had never been done before to any other employee for an alleged nonthreatening defense. Plaintiff, a small woman, was being singled out and treated differently by having the postal police present.

- With respect to issues (2) and (3), Plaintiff only made additions and 11. corrections to a grievance, and the corrections were open and obvious. No union representative other than Plaintiff has ever been charged with altering a document (the original charge was for falsifying a document, but was later changed) when making additions and corrections to a grievance. Plaintiff was treated differently than other representatives and was issued a removal.
- 12. On January 8, 2003, Plaintiff received a notice of removal which resulted in a 7-day suspension for improper conduct - altering an official document, as a continuation of issue (2).
- Plaintiff previously had a grievance settlement which stated that 13. management would not interrupt Plaintiff needlessly while Plaintiff was on union time, but management violated this condition in order to retaliate against Plaintiff for having filed successful grievances. Plaintiff was paid monetary awards on several EEO complaints.
- 14. Members of management engaged in aggressive, hostile and threatening behavior toward Plaintiff in connection with the retaliatory actions taken against Plaintiff, so that Plaintiff suffered severe mental anguish and emotional distress. The extreme mental anguish and emotional distress suffered by Plaintiff as a result of the retaliatory actions taken against Plaintiff by management are set forth in the psychiatric report on Plaintiff attached as Exhibit B hereto.

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FIRST COUNT

RETALIATION

- 15. The foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint are incorporated in this Count by reference as if set forth at length herein.
- 16. Defendant has retaliated against Plaintiff by subjecting her to a hostile environment, and retaliatory acts ranging from taking Plaintiff off the clock to Plaintiff's current removal or suspension. Defendants retaliated against Plaintiff after she successfully filed and prosecuted EEO charges. Defendants have thereby intentionally engaged in unlawful employment practices prohibited by 42 U.S.C. § 2000e et sea.
- All conditions precedent to filing this action for discrimination under 17. federal law have been met. Plaintiff timely filed her charge of retaliation based upon EEO activity. Plaintiff has, within the past ninety (90) days of filing this lawsuit, received a Notice of Right to Sue attached as Exhibit A.
- 18. Defendant has engaged in a single continuous course of conduct of retaliation against Plaintiff because of Plaintiff's protected EEO activity and by subjecting Plaintiff to a hostile environment in order to destroy Plaintiff, her career, and her personal life.
- 19. Such retaliation by Defendants against Plaintiff was intentional. Accordingly, Plaintiff is entitled to recover damages from Defendant for back pay, front pay, future pecuniary losses, emotional pain and suffering, inconvenience, loss of

enjoyment of life and other non-pecuniary losses. Further, this retaliation was done by Defendant with intentional malice or with reckless indifference to Plaintiff's protected rights. Such retaliation constitutes gross, wanton, reckless, and/or intentional violation of Plaintiff's rights under Title VII. Plaintiff is therefore also entitled to recover punitive damages. Plaintiff is also entitled to recover all costs of Court, and attorneys' fees.

III.

JURY DEMAND

38. Plaintiff demands trial by jury on all issues raised by her Complaint.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiff prays that Defendant be cited to appear and answer herein, and that on final trial, Plaintiff have the following relief against Defendant:

- 1. Judgment for back pay and front pay and all past and future lost fringe benefits;
- 2. Compensatory damages for the humiliation, damage to reputation, mental and emotional distress, and pain and suffering that Plaintiff has experienced and endured as a result of the discriminatory actions of Defendant;
- 3. Exemplary damages in an amount determined by the trier of fact;
- 4. Costs of past and future medical treatment, and past and future psychiatric and psychological treatment and counseling;
- 5. Damages for past and future mental anguish, emotional distress, and physical distress, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment of life, and other non-pecuniary losses;
- 7. Prejudgment and post-judgment interest at the maximum legal rate;

- 8. Preliminary and permanent injunctive relief directing Defendant to cease the fostering of exposing a sexually hostile environment;
- 9. Preliminary and permanent injunctive relief reinstating Plaintiff effective with her removal, and correcting all personnel records to show this;
- 10. Attorneys' fees;
- 11. Expert's fees;
- 12. All costs of court; and
- Such other and further relief to which Plaintiff may be justly 13. entitled.

Dated: This 45 May of

Respectfully submitted,

KILGORE & KILGORE, PLLC

MASTERSON

State Bar No. 13184000 D. ELIZABETH MASTERSON State Bar No. 00791200

3109 Carlisle, Suite 200 Dallas, TX 75204 (214) 969-9099 - Telephone (214) 953-0133 - Fax

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF CYNTHIA SAXIONES

PCDOCS/WDM/PLD/46950.1



U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION Office of Federal Operations P.O. Box 19848 Washington, D.C. 20036

Cynthia Saxiones, Complainant,

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John E. Potter,
Postmaster General,
United States Postal Service,
(Southwest Area),
Agency.

Appeal No. 01A41475

Agency No. 4G-752-0046-03

DECISION

Pursuant to 29 C.F.R. § 1614.405, the Commission accepts the complainant's appeal from the agency's final decision in the above-entitled matter. Complainant alleged that the agency had discriminated against her in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e et seq., on the basis of reprisal for prior EEO activity when: (1) on October 22, 2002, she was issued a Letter of Warning for failure to follow safety procedures; (2) on November 14, 2002, she was placed off the clock for falsification; and (3) on January 8, 2003, she was issued a Notice of Removal for improper conduct. After a review of the record in its entirety, including consideration of all statements submitted on appeal, it is the decision of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to affirm the agency's final decision because the preponderance of the evidence of record does not establish that discrimination occurred.

STATEMENT OF RIGHTS - ON APPEAL

RECONSIDERATION (M0701)

The Commission may, in its discretion, reconsider the decision in this case if the complainant or the agency submits a written request containing arguments or evidence which tend to establish that:

1. The appellate decision involved a clearly erroneous interpretation of material fact or law; or

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2. The appellate decision will have a substantial impact on the policies, practices, or operations of the agency.

Requests to reconsider, with supporting statement or brief, must be filed with the Office of Federal Operations (OFO) within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of this decision or within twenty (20) calendar days of receipt of another party's timely request for reconsideration. See 29 C.F.R. § 1614.405; Equal Employment Opportunity Management Directive for 29 C.F.R. Part 1614 (EEO MD-110), 9-18 (November 9, 1999). All requests and arguments must be submitted to the Director, Office of Federal Operations, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, P.O. Box 19848, Washington, D.C. 20036. In the absence of a legible postmark, the request to reconsider shall be deemed timely filed if it is received by mail within five days of the expiration of the applicable filing period. See 29 C.F.R. § 1614.604. The request or opposition must also include proof of service on the other party.

Hailure to file within the time period will result in dismissal of your request for reconsideration as untimely, unless extenuating circumstances prevented the timely filing of the request. supporting documentation must be submitted with your request for reconsideration. Commission will consider requests for reconsideration filed after the deadline only in very limited circumstances. See 29 C.F.R. § 1614.604(c).

COMPLAINANT'S RIGHT TO FILE A CIVIL ACTION (\$0900)

You have the right to file a civil action in an appropriate United States District Court within ninety (90) calendar days from the date that you receive this decision. If you file a civil action, you must name as the defendant in the complaint the person who is the official agency head or department head, identifying that person by his or her full name and official title. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of your case in court. "Agency" or "department" means the national organization, and not the local office, facility or department in which you work. If you file a request to reconsider and also file a civil action, filing a civil action will terminate the administrative processing of your complaint.

RIGHT TO REQUEST COUNSEL (Z1199)

If you decide to file a civil action, and if you do not have or cannot afford the services of an attorney, you may request that the Court appoint an attorney to represent you and that the Court permit you to file the action without payment of fees, costs, or other security. See Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e et seq.; the Rehabilitation Act of 1973,

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as amended, 29 U.S.C. §§ 791, 794(c). The grant or denial of the request is within the sole discretion of the Court. Filing a request for an attorney does not extend your time in which to file a civil action. Both the request and the civil action must be filed within the time limits as stated in the paragraph above ("Right to File A Civil Action").

FOR THE COMMISSION:

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Carlton M. Hadden, Director Office of Federal Operations

APR 1 4 2004

Date

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

For timeliness purposes, the Commission will presume that this decision was received within five (5) calendar days after it was mailed. I certify that this decision was mailed to complainant, complainant's representative (if applicable), and the agency on:

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Date

Equal Opportunity Assistant



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& Anthony Moore, M. D.

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05/28/03

Po: Department of Labor

PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION

Re: Cynthia Saxiones SS # 465 - 33 - 9633 BOB: 09/25/57

I have been evaluating and treating Cynthia Sexiones since 03/05/03 and 1 leve found her to be suffering from stress reactions due to a treatile work environment with the post office. She suffers from major depressive episode (296,23).

the has worked for the post office for approximately 18 years and has had no previous psychiatric history. She has filed several grisvances our to discrimination in the work place and she has won all three of them. It has not stopped the harasament and the symptoms that she has developed which have been particularly bad beginning in the fail of 2002 and worsening into 2003. She has been having such symptoms as marked anxiety, along with marked difficulty sleeping, marked difficulty with appetite, and she has hed facings of hopelessness and sachess as the result of the hostile treatment in the work place. She had become morbidly preoccupied with lesues surrounding destn, having begun to read obituaries in the newspapers, a sign of morbid ininking. She has withdrawn from her usual activities and hobbies such as gardening and she has been unavailable to her bushend and her sex drive is diminished. The has had no previous history of depression prior to Gotober of 2001 and she has been bowing marked feelings of victimization and agitation where she will be consumed and preoccupied with feelings of victinization, unger, and depression over the mistreatment from the post uffice.

EXHIBIT B

Depart Case 3:04-CM-Q1390-BF Octiment from Filed 06/25/Q433 Page 15 of 16 PageID 15 Page Two.

Re: Cynthia Saxiones SS W 465 - 33 - 9633 DOE: 09/26/57

She sought help to deal with the way she was feeling and she has required active treatment to stabilize her condition.

Despite her filing and winning three grievances regarding discrimination, the post office has continued to harass and mistrest her which she has documented very well in her notes and letters. At one point, she had begun drinking more prior to coming into be evacuated. The drinking was to help medicate her. Since she has been treated with medications, the drinking has stopped. However, she continues to have flash-backs and is flooded with feelings related to the narassment and mistreatment from the post office by various individuals in management as she documents in her letters and hobes. At another point, one of the managers tried to attack hor, but was held back by the Union Steward who was with her and this has further added to her feelings of victimization, loss of saif esteem, loss of spility to perform in her career, and loss of ability to perform as a wife in her marriage. She becomes overwhelmed when thinking of returning to work, as it is a hostile, aggressive work environment and has resulted in causing ner depression.

In reading over the letters and notes that she has presented, it becomes very elect that her story is valid and that she has documented the incidents that have occurred to her. She was trying her best to remain at work, but she could no longer take it when she sought psychiatric consultation in March of this year. Since she has begun to see me, I have visited with her and her husband and corroborated her story and psychiatric history with them and, in addition, I have started her on medications which includes kanax 6.5 mg one, two, or three times daily for anxiety related to her ordered and Risperdal 0.5 mg at bedtime which she has been taking for the agitation and sleeplesaness due to the mistreatment from her work, as well as starting her on Effexor-XR 25 mg daily for her coplession. Since that time, in March she has had her Risperdal increased to 2 mg at bedtime and her Effexor-XA has been increased to 150 mg per day which is her correct dose.

Initially, her mental status examination revealed someone who had markedly blunted affect, disheveled appearance who was overwhelmed Department of Labor

Department of Labor Psychiatric Evaluation Fage Three. 05/28/03

Re: Cynthia Saxiones SS # 465 - 33 - 9633 DCH: 09/26/57

Initially, her mental status examination revealed someons who had markedly blunted affect, disheveled appearance who was overwhelmed with anxiety and agitation, and yet exhibited psychomotor retardation with a markedly depressed mood and morbid thinking. She is barely able to reach goal ideas at a tentence level. She exhibited a process called rumination where she could not get issues about the post office and her mistreatment off her mind.

Since she has entered treatment and taking medications away from the work setting, she has shown some improvement, but if any discussions take place about work, it revives all the bad memories, mistreatment, and harassment that she has suffered and it is my firm opinion that she is unable to return to work due to the harassment, mistreatment, and victimization in her work place. I recommend that she be granted medical disability and continue her treatment. Furthermore, that the tasses raised by the filing of her grievances and EBOs be addressed. The manner in which she has been treated is intolerable and unbecoming of an organization.

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